

b¹
by the reaction of an aromatic monomer having at least one boron-derivative functional group with an organic base including a tetraalkylammonium entity in an amount sufficient to convert the at least one boron-derivative functional group into boronate anionic group(s) ($-B(X)_3^-$) wherein X is independently selected from the group consisting of F and OH, and then coupling the organic cation salt of the aromatic boronate monomer with an aromatic monomer having at least one reactive halide functional group in the presence of a catalyst suitable for catalysing the coupling by elimination of a halide functional group and a boronate anionic group.

b²
24. A process according to claim 21, wherein at least 1.5 equivalents of said organic base per boron-derivative functional group is provided in the reaction mixture.

25. A process according to claim 21, wherein at least two equivalents of said organic base per boron-derivative functional group is provided in the reaction mixture.

b³
27. A process according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the organic base comprises R' R'' R''' R'''' NOH, wherein R' is a C₁ - C₆ alkyl group, and R'', R''' and R'''' are each independently hydrogen atoms or C₁ - C₆ alkyl groups.

Please add the following new claims 36 and 37:

b⁴
36. A process according to claim 22, wherein at least 1.5 equivalents of said organic base are reacted with the aromatic monomer having at least one boron-derivative functional group to produce the organic cation salt.

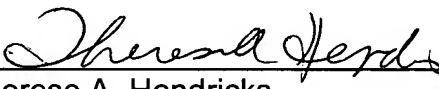
37. A process according to claim 22, wherein at least 2 equivalents of said organic base are reacted with the aromatic monomer having at least one boron-derivative functional group to produce the organic cation salt.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
Therese A. Hendricks
Reg. No. 30,389